

CITY *Visions*

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF MORGAN HILL • JULY 2001

Check Your Mail For Future City Visions

WITH THE goal of providing you with more timely information, CityVisions will now be mailed out separately from your water bill. Beginning in August, look for City Visions in your mailbox, around the first of every month.

City water bills are mailed throughout the month and to ensure everyone received adequate notice, event information has been listed far in advance. By switching our distribution method, we can now include information about meetings and events closer to their date and include many additional events. We sincerely hope that this change enables you to know and participate in more City events. ☞

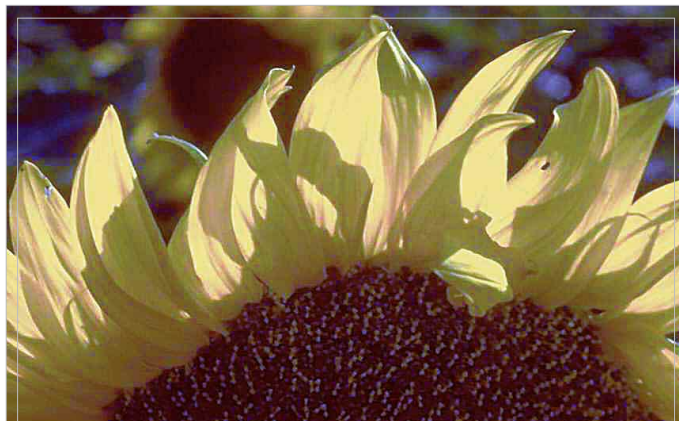
Article by Anthony Eulo, Assistant To The City Manager, 779-7247 or teulo@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov

E N E R G Y U P D A T E

Baseline Increases Available

AS NEW electricity rate increases draw more attention to the "baseline" quantities established for each home. It is worthwhile to know that, you may qualify for an increase to your baseline quantity, if a full-time resident in your home has a medical disability. If you believe that you may qualify, please contact your local PG&E office at (800) 743-5000 and request a copy of "Declaration of Eligibility for a Standard Medical Baseline Quantity," Form No. 62-3481. ☞

Article by Anthony Eulo, Assistant To The City Manager, 779-7247 or teulo@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov



City "Adoption" Opportunities Abound

OUR CITY'S parks benefit from the volunteer efforts of individuals, groups, organizations, and businesses who have "partnered" with the City in the Adopt-a-Park Program. They assist with litter removal, general care of landscaping, planting projects, graffiti removal, and other projects.

For example, beautiful flowers bloom year round and add to the charm of downtown, thanks to those citizens who have adopted one or more of the 90 raised planter boxes on Monterey Road and plant and maintain them. We have a new program coming soon: the **Adopt-a-Street** and the **Donate-a-Tree** programs.


All of these volunteer efforts promote community pride and ownership by encouraging individuals, businesses, groups, and organizations to enhance city services with their volunteer efforts.

If you would like more information about any of the above volunteer opportunities, please contact Karen Lengsfeld, Coordinator of Volunteer Services, 779-7278 ext. 459. ☞

ANNUAL SOUTH COUNTY GARAGE SALE COMING IN SEPTEMBER 2001



Promote the idea of reuse, conserve landfill space and avoid wasting valuable resources – have a garage sale! Morgan Hill, Gilroy and South Santa Clara County are celebrating their commitment to reducing waste by sponsoring a South County Garage Sale Day on Saturday and Sunday, September 8th and 9th.

You provide the garage. You keep the cash. Clean out your closets and empty the attic! We will provide free advertising and free garage sale kits. These kits include tips for a successful sale, inventory sheets and a list of organizations who will accept donations of usable items. (You may want to check with your Home Owners Association, if applicable, to make sure you can have a garage sale.) For more information, contact the City of Morgan Hill Environmental Division at 779-7247 or by email at teulo@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov 

TO PARTICIPATE, COMPLETE AND RETURN
THE APPLICATION AT THE RIGHT BY
FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 2001

NAME/PHONE (WILL NOT BE LISTED IN AD)

.....

.....

ADDRESS OF GARAGE SALE

.....

.....

.....

DAYS PARTICIPATING (CIRCLE ONE):

Saturday Only

Sunday Only

Saturday and Sunday

ITEMS YOU WILL SELL (CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY):

Appliances Antiques Books

Clothes Furniture Jewelry

Toys Other (please list):

.....

PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT

I agree to operate my garage sale on the day(s) specified above, from 8 AM until 2 PM. I agree to contact the City if I cancel my sale so that my address can be removed from the list of participants. I understand that the deadline for my application/cancellation is Friday, August 24, if my address is to be included in the garage sale ads appearing in local papers.

SIGNATURE

.....

RETURN THIS APPLICATION TO:

Garage Sale Day

Environmental Programs Division

17555 Peak Avenue

Morgan Hill, CA 95037

YOU CAN ALSO FAX THIS FORM TO 779-3117



Join The Fun – Join National Night Out

JOIN US
FOR THE
THIRD ANNUAL
ICE CREAM SOCIAL ON
AUGUST 7TH 2001

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and cosponsored by the Morgan Hill Police Department Crime Prevention Unit. This event involves over 9,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases around the world. In all, over 30 million people participate in "America's Night Out Against Crime."

This special time during the year is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support and participation in local anti-crime efforts; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community relationships; and send a clear message to criminals to let them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Morgan Hill currently has approximately 95 organized "Neighborhood Watch," neighborhoods. Each year they are invited to plan special events during National Night Out. Residents throughout Morgan Hill and across the nation are asked to turn on porch lights and spend an evening outside with neighbors. Along with the traditional display of outdoor light and front porch vigils, cities, towns and neighborhoods celebrate with a variety of events and activities including block

parties, cookouts, visits from local police, parades, flashlight walks, and a variety of contests and youth programs.

Your neighborhood is invited to join us in celebrating the fight against crime on Tuesday, August 7th.

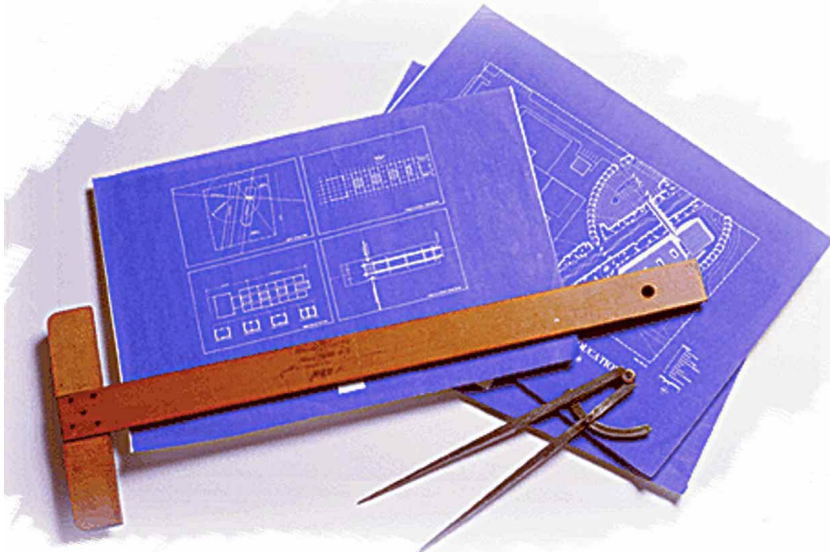
*Whether it is
organizing your
own block party or
joining us for ice
cream, don't miss
this opportunity to
be a part of this
year's fun and join
millions of people
nationwide.*

This year the Morgan Hill Police Crime Prevention Unit will be hosting it's third annual "Ice Cream Social" on the steps of City Hall. Don't miss this opportunity to visit with members of the Police Department, try your hand at dunking the Chief of Police in the Dunk Tank, and enjoy all the ice cream you can handle.

Whether it is organizing your own block party or joining us for ice cream, don't miss this opportunity to be a part of this year's fun and join millions of people nationwide to **Give Crime and Drugs A Going Away Party!**

If you are organizing your own neighborhood celebration against crime, let us know. An officer and McGruff will be happy to come by and join in the fun. For more information about this year's National Night Out Campaign, please call the Morgan Hill Police Crime Prevention Unit at 776-7310. ☎

Article by Debbie Simon, Crime Prevention Officer, 776-7310 or debbies@pd.morgan-hill.ca.gov nit



View VTA Highway Project Displays At City Hall


THE CITY has agreed to display information, at City Hall, about two very important Valley Transportation Authority projects.

HIGHWAY 101 WIDENING PROJECT

This project will widen U.S. 101 between Bernal Road in South San Jose to Cochrane Road in Morgan Hill to accommodate three mixed flow (non-commuter) lanes and one High-Occupancy Vehicle ("HOV" or carpool) lane in each direction. This project is being done to provide traffic congestion relief by eliminating the four-lane bottleneck in this area and improving driving safety along this segment of U.S. 101. Funding for this project will be \$64 million (\$48 million from 1996-voter approved Measure B funding and \$16 million from other funding sources). Construction is anticipated to begin in Fall 2001.

ROUTE 152 SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

This project will provide safety and operational improvements on Route 152, between U.S. 101 and Route 156 in Gilroy and Santa Clara County. Several potential projects are being considered, including intersection improvements, a traffic signal at Gilroy Foods and widening Route 152 between U.S. 101 and Ferguson Road in Gilroy. Funding for these improvements will be \$11 million from 1996-voter approved Measure B funding. Construction for these improvements is scheduled to begin in the year 2002 with an anticipated completion date in 2004.

These two highway projects are being displayed at City Hall through August 31, 2001. Please feel free to stop by and view the displays. For more information about these highway projects, call VTA Community Outreach at 321-7575, TDD only 321-2330, or visit VTA's web page at www.vta.org 

Article by Irma Torrez, City Clerk 779-7259


Illegal Signs Create A Visual Blight In Our Community

DID YOU know that the placement of a "garage sale" signs and other similar type sign on any pole or post in the public right-of-way is illegal in Morgan Hill?

It is also illegal to place directional signs, private party advertisements, event promotions, job opportunities, real estate advertisements or other such signs on medians, street barricades or on any structure located within the public right-of-way.

The reasons that signs in the public right-of-way are prohibited are that they can pose a threat to public safety - especially to motorists who can be distracted by them or have their views obstructed by the signs' placement. In addition, when attached to a telephone pole or other utility pole, signs and attachments pose a safety hazard to utility personnel by their presence and by the materials used in mounting signs or attachments, such as nails and staples. Finally, the proliferation of such signs along our city streets is unattractive to most city residents.

Removal of illegal signs is currently a primary responsibility of the City's Code Enforcement Officer. He has removed hundreds of signs from the public right-of-way this year and issued dozens of warnings to responsible parties. In addition to removing signs illegally placed in the right-of-way, the Code Enforcement Officer has established agreements with many property owners that allow him to remove illegal signs from their property without delay. On weekends, when many illegal signs are placed along the city streets, Community Service Officers in our Police Department will remove illegal signs in the public right-of-way, as their time and other duties allow.

Because the Code Enforcement Officer and Community Service Officers do not drive by your street on a daily basis, we may not know when illegal signs have been posted. You could help the City by either removing the signs yourself, reporting the sign to the Code Enforcement Officer at 779-7241 during regular business hours, or reporting the sign to the Police Department at 779-2101 on weekends. Reported illegal signs will likely be removed within 24 hrs. 

Article by Jim Rowe, Planning Manager, 779-7247,
jrowe@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov

Summer Time Fun – for 2001

CHECK OUT the Summer 2001 Recreation Guide available at City Hall or on-line at www.morgan-hill.ca.gov. There are classes and activities for all age groups and interests such as sports camps and leagues, arts and crafts, dance, fitness, relaxation, music, interior design, and safety.

New classes for Summer 2001 are tennis, volleyball, swing and ballroom dance, and Big Fun for Little Ones. Back by popular demand are the Minihawks/Skyhawks Kids Sports Camps, Jr. Golf, Arts in the Park, Yoga and more. We are featuring a Drop-in Program at local parks throughout the City with our mobile recreation van. Please refer to the Recreation Guide for park locations and times.

The “Teen Zone” Program has a wide variety of activities selected by the Morgan Hill Youth Advisory Committee. There is a trip scheduled on July 13th to the new Bonfante Gardens and a Hawaiian Luau Dance in August - just to name a few. Please encourage teens to register for these exciting and fun activities for summer.

Our class offerings have increased from nine classes in Summer 2000 to forty-nine classes for Summer 2001, so please check out the guide and don't miss out on these FUNtastic activities. Register early and join the fun in 2001! ☎

Article by Therese Luggert, Recreation Supervisor, 779-7271, Luggert@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov

ATTENTION TALENTED CITIZENS

If there is anyone out there who has a hobby or talent and you wish to share your skills, please contact Recreation Supervisor, Therese Luggert, at 779-7271 x 273. We are always looking for new classes, ideas and instructors. Class possibilities are endless and a little extra change in the pocket can buy you lunch, call today! (Drug testing and fingerprinting required). ☎



CHANNEL 17 LOCAL GUIDE

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

REGULAR SESSION: 8/01 7PM LIVE
8/2 NOON REPLAY
8/5 NOON REPLAY

REGULAR SESSION: 8/15 7PM LIVE
8/16 NOON REPLAY
8/19 NOON REPLAY

REGULAR: 8/22 7PM LIVE
JOINT REDEVELOPMENT 8/23 NOON REPLAY
AGENCY MEETING 8/26 NOON REPLAY

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

REGULAR SESSION: 8/14 7PM LIVE
8/15 NOON REPLAY
8/18 NOON REPLAY

REGULAR SESSION: 8/28 7PM LIVE
8/29 NOON REPLAY
9/02 NOON REPLAY

RECYCLING HOUR
WATER WISE GARDENING

9:30AM & 4:30PM DAILY
10:30AM & 5:30PM DAILY



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT • AUGUST 7

Ice Cream Social. See page three or contact Morgan Hill Police Department at 779-2101.

COMPOST WORKSHOP • AUGUST 14

Attendees of Morgan Hill Home Composting workshops discover the benefits of gardening using their own compost. The next class is scheduled for Tuesday, August 14th, from 7-9 PM at the YMCA. To register for this free workshop, call the Home Composting Education Program at 299-4147.

*You have the Power
to save energy.*

*Your energy conservation efforts
are making a difference
in avoiding blackouts.*

Keep up the good work!

*For a free booklet on Energy Saving Ideas,
call 779-7247 or e-mail
environ@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov.*

City Elected Officials

MAYOR Dennis Kennedy	779-7259
MAYOR PRO TEMPORE Greg Sellers	778-2370
COUNCILMEMBER Larry Carr	779-9622
COUNCILMEMBER Hedy L. Chang	778-0511
COUNCILMEMBER Steve Tate	779-6992
CITY CLERK Irma Torrez	779-7259
CITY TREASURER Michael Roorda	778-3653

City Executive Staff

CITY MANAGER J. Edward Tewes
CITY ATTORNEY Helene L. Leichter
ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER Melissa Stevenson Dile
ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER Anthony Eulo
BUSINESS ASSISTANCE/HOUSING SERVICES DIRECTOR Garrett Toy
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR David Bischoff
COUNCIL SERVICES AND RECORDS MANAGER Irma Torrez
FINANCE DIRECTOR Jack Dilles
POLICE CHIEF Steve Schwab
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR Jim Ashcraft
RECREATION MANAGER Julie Spier

Contacting Your City

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8AM to 5PM
Address: 17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Animal Control	776-7300
Building Inspection	779-7241
Business Assistance & Housing Services	776-7373
City Clerk	779-7259
City Manager	779-7271
Environmental Programs	779-7247
Finance	779-7237
Fire Department (County Fire)	378-4010
Job Hotline	779-7276
Planning: Land Use / Zoning	779-7247
Police Administration	776-7315
Public Works	776-7337
Recreation	779-7271
Water	779-7221
Volunteer Programs	779-7278

City Hall Fax Number 779-3117
City Website: <http://www.morgan-hill.ca.gov>

Contact The Editor

Questions or comments about City Visions are welcome. Contact Editor Anthony Eulo at 779-7247 or environ@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov. City Visions is published monthly by the City of Morgan Hill.